

Senate Joint Resolution No. 45

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 148

Senate Joint Resolution No. 45—Relative to federal transportation funding.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 28, 1998.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 45, Polanco. Federal transportation funding.

This measure would memorialize the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation to provide full federal transportation funding, as specified, to ensure safe and cost-effective transportation into the 21st century through California's ports of entry into Mexico, including the timely completion of State Highway Routes 7 and 905.

WHEREAS, Trade between Mexico and the United States is estimated to increase by 93 percent by the year 2000, and the state's border road network is already overburdened; and

WHEREAS, Southern California has five port-of-entry border crossings; and

WHEREAS, Between the years 1983 and 1991, nontruck vehicular traffic increased 138 percent, truck traffic increased 257 percent, and this traffic is only expected to increase further; and

WHEREAS, In 1995, the transportation system carried over 27 million northbound auto crossings with an estimated 83 million passengers, 690,000 northbound truck crossings, and nearly 16 million pedestrian crossings; and

WHEREAS, Currently, border crossing delays are 45 minutes during off-peak times and over 2.5 hours during peak periods; and

WHEREAS, Because of delays and other problems, on average, only 2 percent of all vehicles crossing from Mexico into the United States actually are inspected; and

WHEREAS, The Otay Mesa customs facility, the third most-used commercial crossing along the United States-Mexico border, has truck traffic of over 2,700 vehicles a day, which is only expected to increase as the year 2001 approaches and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) takes full effect; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 800 trucks cross the border at Calexico every day, and according to the Department of Transportation (CalTrans), this number is expected to exceed 1,600 daily within the next 10 years; and

WHEREAS, The only connection between the Otay Mesa port of entry and the interstate highway system is a five-mile section of Otay Mesa Road, which is a four-lane local arterial highway; and

WHEREAS, The connection between Calexico East at State Highway Route 7 and the interstate highway system is State Highway Route 98, a two-lane road, and State Highway Route 111, a four-lane road; and

WHEREAS, Completion of State Highway Route 905 would allow commercial and international traffic to bypass congested surface streets, thus avoiding traffic delays and reducing the high percentage of trucks and the high rate of accidents on the local arterial system; and

WHEREAS, Completion of State Highway Routes 7 and 905 would allow commercial traffic to bypass State Highway Route 98 and directly access the interstate highway system, thereby avoiding the circuitous route either through developed areas of the City of Calexico, including residential areas, a school, and a commercial area, or on two-lane country roads outside the city; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Senate and Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature respectfully memorializes the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation to provide full federal transportation funding from the federal funds appropriated for the coordinated border infrastructure program established under Section 1119 of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (P.L. 105-178), and from no other source, to ensure safe and cost-effective transportation into the 21st century through California's ports of entry into Mexico, including the timely completion of State Highway Routes 7 and 905; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation.